

**Consideration of the dedication of the Blue Cast Springs Nature Preserve in Allen County**

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 54.39 acre property that is in the east central portion of Allen County, approximately 2.0 miles north of the town of Woodburn and 3 miles west of the Indiana / Ohio State line.

The nature preserve consists primarily of riparian topography with river frontage, upland forest, floodplain, ravines and 30 foot bluffs. Also, this preserve has several elements of significant cultural importance; it borders the Wabash and Erie Canal for 960 feet, contains a natural spring and a Native American burial mound.

This nature preserve protects an example high quality oak dominated flatwoods forest community, natural springs, and a riparian zone along 3,150 feet of the Maumee River and located within the Black Swamp Natural Region. This preserve will be the first nature preserve in this Natural Region. These community types, along with their expected component flora and fauna contain many species that are hydro-sensitive plants and animals, will play an important role in maintaining regional populations of these species.

The site will also protect water quality along the Maumee, which in this area is home to four State Endangered mussels, two mussels of State Special Concern, and supports an active blue heron rookery.

This tract is owned and managed by the ACRES Land Trust.

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A.

**Blue Cast Springs Nature Preserve**

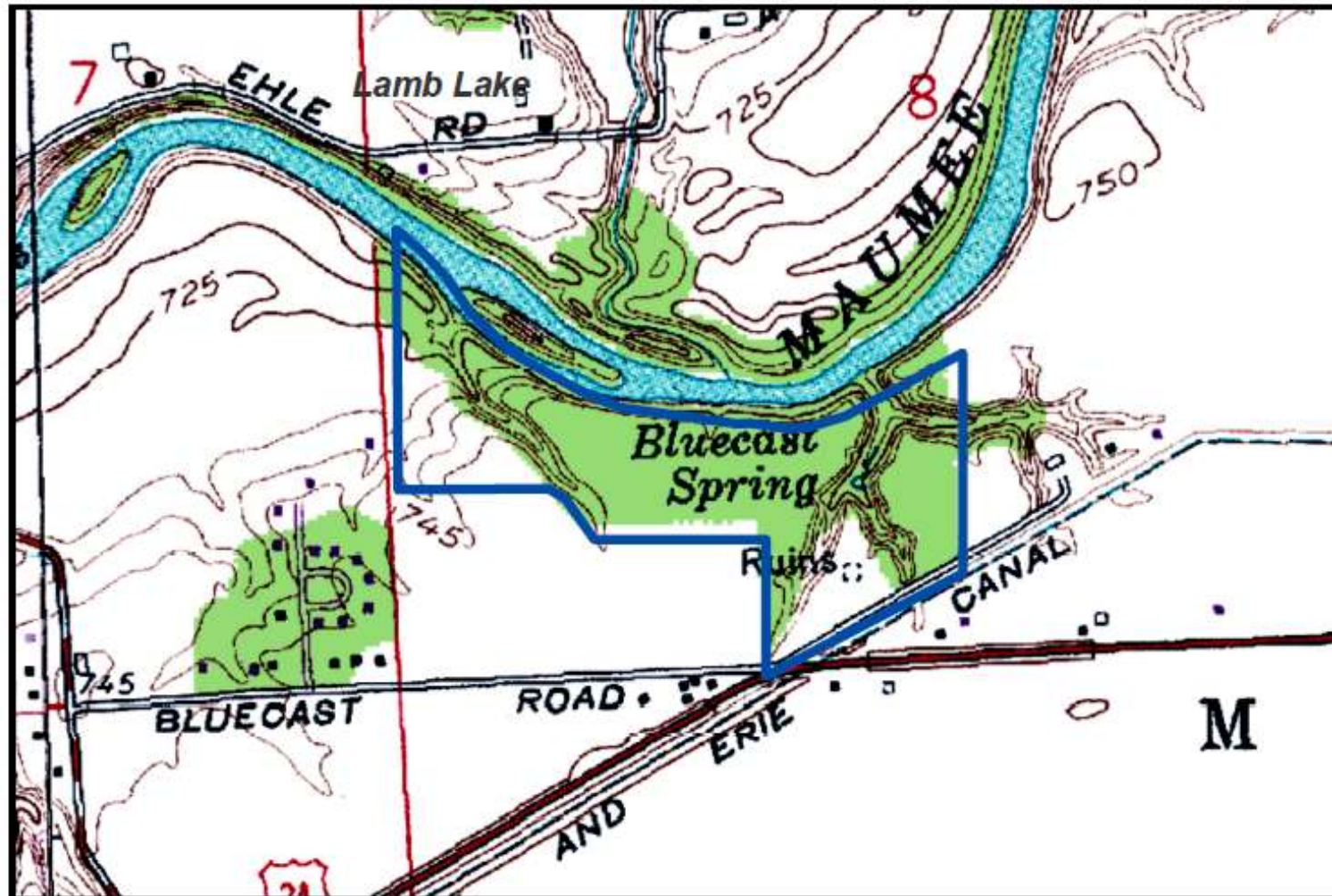
County: Allen

Size: 54.39 acres

**Exhibit A**

USGS Quad Map: Woodburn North

Ownership: ACRES Land Trust, Inc.



map created by R Wilson IDNR Nature Preserves 6.19.2013

0 0.1 0.2 Miles

